SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND RÁJPÚTÁNA.

Received up to 9th December, 1889.

POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 1st December, referring to Reuter's telegram to the effect that Comments on the approaching National Congress. the expenses of Mr. Bradlaugh's. Indian visit will be paid by the National Congress, observes that the rumour is entirely unfounded. The Congress would gladly pay his expenses, but he is a man of high principles and a great philanthropist. He would not accept such an offer even if it were made. The question which at present chiefly exercises the minds of the Congressists is, what subjects should be discussed at the next Bombay Congress? Some men think that all the principal subjects should be discussed as at the previous Congresses, and some would like to witness powerful emphasis laid on the reform of the Legislative Councils; but a majority is of opinion that the attention of the next assembly should be confined to the permanent settlement question. The last proposal is a very reasonable one. The previous Congresses have drawn attention to the principal reforms required, but in future those reforms should be dealt with one by one. There is every reason to hope that the next Congress

Circulation, 300 copies.

will be a great success. The Hindustani then gives a brief account of the public meetings held in different parts of the country for the election of delegates. A meeting was held at Banda on the 24th November, and Seth Siam Karan, Dube Chandi Din, Chaudhri Beni Prasad, Lala Mata Prasad, Sayyid Zakir Ali and others were elected delegates.

Circulation, 800 copies. The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 8th December, is glad

The alleged issue of orders by the Secretary of State forbidding Government officials throwing impediments in the way of the National Congress. to notice that the bitter opposition shown by Government officers to the National Congress last year has led to a very good result. The Secretary of State has forbidden Government officials

offering any opposition or throwing any impediments in the way of the Congress in future. The Government of India has forwarded copies of his despatch to the Local Governments and Administrations, with the additional remark that no official should assist the Congress. This is as it should be. Government officials should have nothing to do with political agita-They should neither oppose nor favour any political movement. The issue of the above-referred-to orders by the Secretary of State may be justly considered as a great victory by the Congressists. The Muhammadan opposition in Bombay to the Congress has abated. The Kazi is the chief opponent, but he is in his dotage. Maulvi Abdul Kaim, of the Bombay Police, made use of unjustifiable threats to prevent Musalmans from joining the Congress, but he has been reported to the Bombay Government, which has rebuked him for his misconduct.

Circulation, 415 copies. that it would appear that the question

Reform of the Legislative Councils.

Councils will be warmly discussed in

Parliament next year. On his return to England from India,

Lord Dufferin declared that the Provincial Legislative Councils should be reformed; that the system of representation should be extended to them to some extent; but that no alteration was yet needed in the constitution of the Supreme Legislature. Lord Lansdowne's opinion, as expressed by him in a

speech in the Legislative Council, is that the Financial statement should be laid before the Council every year for discussion. It is rumoured that Lord Cross also considers some reform necessary and desires to introduce a Bill into Parliament next year. He is of opinion that the Council should be enlarged and that there should be some representation, but that the people should not be empowered to elect any Members. no reform of the Council can be satisfactory which does not include the introduction of the elective system. The Members appointed by Government would not have the will or the courage to represent popular grievances fearlessly, and would never command the confidence of the people. Lord Cross, however, deserves high praise for his recognition of the necessity for reform of the Legislative Councils. It would be well if his Lordship's and Mr. Bradlaugh's Bills were laid before Parliament at the same time. Natives should now strengthen the hands of Mr. Bradlaugh and the Indian Agency in England, so that they may be able to convince the Members of Parliament of the proper lines on which the Legislative Councils should be constituted.

The Bhdrat Itwan (Benares), of the 2nd December, gives

Mr. McLaren's address the substance of Mr. McLaren's com
ments on Indian affairs in his address

to his constituents at Crewe on the 21st October, and observes
that all India should pray for his long life. If sympathetic and
liberal-minded M.Ps. like him co-operate with Mr Bradlaugh
in agitating for the redress of the grievances of the people of
this country, Parliament is sure to listen before long.

A correspondent of the Amiru-l-Akhbar (Meerut), of the lst December, referring to Sir Lepel Criffin's speech at the Colonial Institute.

Griffin's speech at the Colonial Institute, observes that Sir Lepel made an attack on the Mahrata and Muhammadan princes and did not spare even Government, which he accused of timidly tolerating sedition in this country. Government is not so foolish as to adopt the policy of coercion recommended by him. He charged the officials in native states with being corrupt. But does not the charge apply to him with double force? The

Circulation, 1,400 copies. fact is that natives are quite helpless, and any man can heap abuse on their unhappy heads with perfect impunity. A more loyal and obedient people than natives are not to be founds

Circulation, 250 copies. The Naiyar-i-Azam (Moradabad), of the 2nd December,

The reply of the Naivari-Azam to the charge of disloyalty brought against it by the Rahbar in connection with a distich published by the former newspaper. referring to the unfavourable comments made by the Rahbar on the distich which appeared in a late number of the Naiyar-i-Azam praying for the extension of the rule of the Nawab of

Rampur over all India, condemns the charge of sedition as false and malicious, and observes that the British Government may be pleased to make over the administration of India to the Nawab if His Highness renders any important services to it.

ADMINISTRATION.

400 copies.

The Praydg Sandelder (Allahabad), of the 2nd December; regrets to say that the winter tours The winter tours of district officers. of district officers, far from doing any good to the people, are a great misfortune to them. Great oppression is exercised by chaprasis in connection with the supply of provisions, and the men pressed into service are not paid full wages. The litigants whose cases are tried by officials in camp are exposed to much inconvenience from the inclemencies of the weather. As no place is mentioned in the summonses, the litigants have to find out the camps of the officers in the best way they can. Cases are often not taken up on the dates fixed, and consequently the parties have to follow the officials about from place to place for several days. If a litigant who has to follow an official's camp in this way is an old, sickly or poor man, the hardships he has to bear may be easily imagined. Under these circumstances the district officers had better be told not to try any cases. while out in camp. They should only inquire into the condition of the people and find out persons of bad character, with the assistance of the police. But if they cannot be relieved of judicial work during the time, satisfactory arrangements should be made for the trial of cases, in order to save the

litigants from unnecessary trouble and expense. Each officer should fix the dates of cases in such a manner that at the time of his encampment at any place, only the litigants living in the neighbouring villages may have to attend his camp. Every endeavour should be made to hear a case on the fixed If any person is unavoidably absent on the fixed date, date. his case should be postponed and not tried in his absence. Persons unable to present petitions in person, owing to any cause, may be allowed to send them by post. During his tour, each official should endeavour to find out what persons oppress or cheat the people, and take steps to bring them to The winter tours, as conducted at present, serve no useful purpose, but only cause a deal of trouble and annoyance to the people, and put them and the taxpayers to much unnecessary expense.

The same paper complains that the police officials and other

Certain police officials at men at Mirzapur, whose illegal and

Mirzapur charged with high-handed proceedings are exposed seeking to throw the cor
memordant of the Prayles by its correspondent at that place are

respondent of the Prayag by its correspondent at that place, are Samachar into difficulties, anxious to throw him into difficulties in

one way or other; and expresses its surprise and regret that Government has not yet transferred the tyrannical police officials from Mirzapur.

The Halat-i-Hind (Allahabad), for November, regrets to

Comments on the alleged reduction in the
allowances for the supply
of medicines to charitable
dispensaries.

notice that the members of municipal
and local boards still continue to consent
to any proposals made by the presidents,
and have not the courage to speak out

their mind. A reduction has lately been made by the local boards in the allowances for the supply of medicines to charitable dispensaries, and the result is that doctors in charge of such dispensaries do not supply medicine to many patients, but simply give them prescriptions. But the poor patients cannot afford to get the prescriptions dispensed by private druggists, and many of them succumb to their diseases for want of treatment. If ten persons apply for the dismissal of a member from his post, he should he dismissed. This is the only way in which the members can be made to perform their duties properly and take an interest in the welfare of the people.

Circulation, 300 copies. The National Congress had better take up the subject at the next meeting.

The same paper complains that some European officials always take with them, on transfer The taking of their favourite native subordifrom one district to another, their nates with them by Eurofavourite native subordinates, who have pean official on transfer from one district to another. won their good-will by flattery or in some more objectionable way. Soon after his arrival at his new station, the officer dismisses or forces one of his subordinates there to retire on pension and appoints his favourite, whom he left behind at the former scene of his labours, to the vacant post. The man having the ear of the European official, lords it over the Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and other native officials and private individuals. If any of them has the misfortune to incur his displeasure, he is at once brought into difficulties by the European official. Several instances of this kind have been brought to light in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. It is almost needless to say that the high-handed proceedings of such European officials are calculated to create grave discontent among the people. Some time ago Government issued a circular prohibiting officials from moving their subordinates about with themselves, but the order is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Government had better insist on its orders being strictly obeyed in this matter.

The same paper, after referring to the Etah case, in which condemnation of the a man was sentenced to transportation police.

for life on the charge of having killed his wife, who has since been found to have been sent out as an emigrant, observes that it has frequently exposed the illegal proceedings of the police and shown how false cases are fabricated by them. But nothing has yet been done by Government to reform the police force, which is a dark stain on the fair reputation of the British Government. It is a matter of surprise and regret that a Government which is ready to encourage reforms in other countries and states should neglect to set its own house in order. Had such police oppression been found to exist in any native state, Government would have at once interfered and insisted on reform.

The Jubilee Paper (Lucknow), of the 1st December,

The alleged prevalence of bribery and corruption among Government servants. draws attention to the alleged prevalence of bribery and corruption among Government officials, and attributes the existence of the evil to the

provisions of the Penal Code, under which the giver as well as the receiver of a bribe is liable to punishment. The provisions of the Code should be amended. If a Government official extorts bribes from any person by threats and unjustifiable harassment, only the official should be punished. On the other hand, if any person voluntarily offers or pays a bribe to an official, in order to induce the latter to show him some favour, only the former should be prosecuted and punished. Another method of checking the evil is by the establishment of a Secret Department to watch the conduct of Government servants.

The Oudh Punch (Lucknow), of the 28th November,
The present condition of publishes a picture in which India is
India. represented as a native woman, with
her hair dishevelled, welcoming his Royal Highness Prince
Albert Victor on his landing at Bombay and repeating an
Urdu verse which means:—Alas, in its present state of ruin,
India, which was once the private abode of kings, has become
the touring ground of strangers.

The Nasim-i-Agra, of the 30th November, is sorry to say that dissatisfaction and disappointment

Alleged high-handed proceedings of the police and magistracy, and ill-treatment of the people by soldiers. that dissatisfaction and disappointment are growing among the people owing to several causes. Setting aside the high-handedness and tyranny of the

police, young and inexperienced men are appointed Magistrates and abuse their powers. Sometimes, in cases of assault and riot, Magistrates punish both the assailants and the injured persons, even though the latter are innocent, with a view to frighten the people and prevent the occurrence of such emeutes in future. But the punishment of innocent men has the contrary effect and tends to encourage wicked men to commit arime. The ill-treatment of the people by European and native coldiers is another fruitful cause of popular discontent. The

Circulation, 450 copies.

Dum Dum incident and the misconduct of soldiers near Lucknow are enough to make a man's hair stand on end. The people are frequently shot like wild beasts and their women are outraged by soldiers. Why do military officers allow soldiers to wander about at will and ill-treat the people?

Circulation. 125 copies.

Suggestion regarding the exemption of proprietors

of newspapers from the in-

come tax.

The Sitara-i-Hind (Moradabad), of the 4th December, thanks Government for the grant of liberty to newspapers and the indulgence shown to them in the matter of postage, and urges that the pro-

prietors of newspapers should be exempted from the payment of the income tax, on the ground that their income, as a rule, is small, and that they supply valuable information to Government gratis.

LEGISLATION.

Circulation. 240 copies.

The Azad (Lucknow), of the 6th December, publishes an article, received from a correspondent, The Official Secrets Act. in defence of the Official Secrets Act. The writer condemns the unfavourable comments made by . some native newspapers on the Act as unjust, and observes that it has nothing in common with Lord Lytton's Press Act. The Official Secrets Act applies to both the English and the native newspapers, while the operation of the Press Act was confined to the native press. In fact, the Official Secrets Act will affect English newspapers more than native newspapers, because the latter are seldom able to have access to secret official correspondence. Only the Amrita Bazár Pattrika lately succeeded in obtaining copies of some confidential papers.

EDUCATION.

Circulation.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar) of the 3rd December, adverting to Lord Lansdowne's address at Comments on Lord Lansthe last convocation of the Panjáb downe's address at the convocation of the Panjab University, observes that his Lordship University. endeavoured to show that the founders

of the Panjab University were right in having for their chief object the encouragement of oriental languages. There is no doubt that the encouragement of oriental languages is highly desirable, but it should be observed that, as this country has been brought into close communication with Europe, a knowledge of English is essential to natives. Without cultivating English science and literature, they cannot aspire to rise in the scale of civilised nations. Many natives were and still are strong opponents of the princples of the Panjáb University. When Government has already accepted those principles, Lord Lansdowne's remarks in their favour were quite super-Indeed, his remarks cannot win over any of the opponents of the University. He said "I hope your Panjab degree will be current intelletual coin in every part of India." If the Viceroy means that the graduates of the Panjáb University should be held in equal estimation with those of other Indian Universities by Government officials, His Excellency has a perfect right to give such an order to his subordinates. But if his remarks apply to the public, he makes a mistake. The public considers the graduates of the Panjáb University inferior to those of the Calcutta University. In the other portion of his speech he discussed three important questions connected with education. First, he referred to the desire of students that the examinations should be made easier than at present, but justly protested against the standard of education being lowered. Secondly, his Lordship declared, as had been done by other Government officials, that Government could not provide employment for all the educated youths turned out by the Indian Universities every year. It is true that in the next two or three decades the number of graduates will largely multiply and Government will be unable to provide for them. Hence they should follow different trades and professions. But, on the other hand, Government has not given sufficient encouragement to them. The Bengal Government no doubt freely avails itself of their services, but in these provinces they have been left out in the cold. Only the Educational Department has lately been opened to them. It should he observed that the encouragement of graduates by Government will greatly promote the cause of education and civilization in this country. Government officials never lose any opportunity of reproaching natives for seeking education only as a means of earning a livelihood. But even in England and Germany the number of such people is very small who acquire learning for its own sake. However, as education spreads among natives, they will learn to appreciate its advantages. The third important question dealt with by Lord Lansdowne in his speech was that of moral training. His Lordship said that those men who looked only to schools and colleges for the moral-education of students were sure to be disappointed, inasmuch as he thought that such education greatly depended on home influences. His Lordship's opinion is undoubtedly right, but then why did he issue his well-known resolution on moral training which elicited very unfavourable criticisms?

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation, 550 copies. The Oudh Akhbár (Lucknow), of the 5th December, refer-

Presentation of a gold pin by Mrs. Dyson to the newly-married wife of Rája Shiva Prasad's grandson. ring to the marriage of Rája Shiva Prasad's grandson, which lately took place at Lucknow, is glad to notice that Mr. J. Dyson, Officiating Judi-

cial Commissioner, Oudh, and Mrs. Dyson, were pleased to pay a visit to the bridegroom's father-in-law on the 30th November, and that Mrs. Dyson presented a gold pin, studded with a diamond and a ruby, to the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Dyson's conduct will greatly tend to increase their popularity among natives. The growth of mutual sympathy and friendship between Europeans and the children of the soil would contribute more to the permanence of British rule in this country than the construction of multitudinous forts.

The Praja Hitkarak (Agra) of the 30th November, complains that in the Johri Bazar at Agra plains that in the Johri Bazar at Agra a police constable intentionally upset a tray full of sweetmeats, which a man hawked about for sale, on the latter refusing to supply him with any of the sweets free of charge. The man went to the city police-station to report the matter, but the police officials at the station did not record his report and turned him out. The local authorities should take steps to protect the people from police oppression.

The same paper expresses satisfaction at the circumstance that the panchaits or general meetings of the use of meat by Chamárs or shoemakers in Agra, Muttra, Gobardhan, &c., have forbidden the use of meat among their castefellows under heavy penalties. Any Chamár who takes meat in future will be excommunicated and will not be readmitted to caste until he has paid a heavy fine. The higher classes of the community should take a lesson from the Chamárs and follow suit.

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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

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